

You Win If "You've Been Caught"

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In most cases, a cop is the one who gives you a ticket, but aboard USS *Paul F. Foster*, the safety officer gives you the news. Unlike our "buddies in blue," however, the latter passes out good news. A ticket from him signals that you're doing something right.

The "you've been caught wearing proper PPE" program is the brainchild of Ens. Jason Kipp. He developed it to encourage *Foster* Sailors to protect themselves while the ship is in a maintenance availability at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash. With the large amount of work being done, danger exists all the time. That's why the crew is required to wear hard hats, safety glasses, and steel-toed boots in this industrial environment.

When the ship's safety officer sees *Foster* Sailors wearing the proper PPE, he issues a special "you've been caught" ticket. They fill out the tickets with their name and division and return them to the safety officer. Each month of the yard period, a random drawing is held from all the tickets issued. The more times Sailors have been caught, the better their odds of winning.

What do you win? Prizes during the first drawing included several free video rentals, gift certificates to area restaurants, and a portable CD player. Future drawings promise a wider variety of incentives, including complimentary passes to a local car race.

From its birth, the "you've been caught" idea has been improving morale and changing the crew's attitude about safety. Sailors no longer turn the other way when they see the safety officer coming. Instead, they proudly point out that they're wearing the correct PPE. There's also increased awareness

among the ranks. Sailors quickly point out the safety discrepancies of their shipmates.

When a ship enters an industrial environment, it's important that everyone who needs PPE gets it. Another important requirement is that everyone wears it correctly. Aboard *Foster*, there's extra incentive to do both. 🍀

Perhaps you have found another novel way to promote safety aboard your ship. If so, why not share it with the Naval Safety Center so we can tell everyone in the fleet? Send your ideas to Lt. Murphy. His e-mail address is lmurphy@safetycenter.navy.mil.



USS *Paul F. Foster* Sailors draw names for prizes in the ship's monthly "you've been caught" program.